



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SB 1237

commission of Indian affairs; continuation

Prime Sponsor: Senator Begay, LD 7

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**X** Committee on Government and Higher Education

Caucus and COW

House Engrossed

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## **OVERVIEW**

SB 1237 continues the Commission on Indian Affairs (Commission) for eight years.

## **PROVISIONS**

1. Continues the Commission for eight years.
2. Contains a purpose statement and a retroactive clause.

## **CURRENT LAW**

The Commission is required to assist and support state and federal agencies in assisting Arizona's Indians and tribal Councils to develop mutual goals, design projects for achieving goals and implement their plans. The Commission must also: 1) assemble and make available facts needed by tribal, state and federal agencies to work together effectively; 2) assist Arizona in its responsibilities to Indians and Tribes by making recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature; 3) confer and coordinate with officials and agencies of other governmental units and legislative committees regarding Indian needs and goals; 4) work for greater understanding and improved relationships between Indians and non-Indians by creating an awareness of the legal, social and economic needs of Arizona's Indians; 5) promote increased participation by Indians in local and state affairs; 6) assist tribal groups in developing increasingly effective methods of self-government; and 7) assist urban Indians ([A.R.S. § 41-542](#)).

The Commission consists of the Governor, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Chief Executive Officer of the Arizona Commerce Authority, Attorney General and the following Directors, or their designees, to serve as ex officio members: 1) the Department of Health Services; 2) the Department of Transportation; 3) the Department of Economic Security; 4) the Department of Gaming; and 5) the Office of Tourism. The Governor must appoint 11 additional members, including four at large, one of whom must represent a nonprofit organization, and 7 from among the Indian tribes. Each Tribe or Tribal Council may submit names of members of its Tribe for consideration for appointment ([A.R.S. § 41-541](#)).

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

The Fiscal Year 2017 [baseline](#) includes three Full Time Equivalent positions and \$57,400 from the state General Fund. The Senate Government and House Agriculture, Water and Lands Committee of Reference met on October 20, 2015, and [recommended](#) an eight year continuation of the Commission.